

START:

RALPH. Have you had any luck yet?

DEAN. I'm afraid I haven't.

RALPH. Grk! Grk! Grk!

(This is an inarticulate sound that RALPH makes when he is angry.)

DEAN. Professor Sargent, Miss Rain, who now thinks you're insane.

DAPHNE. How do you do.

DEAN. Miss Rain is an Instructor with the department, and I have great plans for her. She's putting on *Medea* with her students when we get back.

RALPH. Okay. Euripides. What do we know?

DEAN. One of the four greatest playwrights in the history of the world. How's that for starters?

DAPHNE. Fifth century BC, wrote ninety-five plays.

RALPH. Right. And how many of those plays survive?

DEAN. Very few indeed.

DAPHNE. Seventeen.

RALPH. Exactly. We have seven for Sophocles, seven for Aeschylus –

DEAN. And your tedious point about all this is?

RALPH. I'm on the trail of a new one, which is why I need help.

DAPHNE. A whole new play?

RALPH. No, no. I wish. "A play." But I have a lead on a fragment, and nobody's found more than a line of Euripides in a hundred years.

DAPHNE. What play is it from?

RALPH. *Andromeda*. It was written in

DAPHNE. 412 BC. Aristophanes talks about it, but it was lost.

RALPH. Exactly. But we do know a great deal about it. We know that it started with Andromeda chained to a rock as a human sacrifice. Ovid tells the story, and he says, quote:

"At this moment, the hero Perseus,
Slayer of the Gorgon, flew across the sky,
And at the sight of Andromeda on the watery cliff,
Her body white and naked from the foam,
Her arms in chains that cut her flesh like knives,
Sending rivers of blood across the marble of her
Arching back, he fell in love."

DAPHNE. *(Her voice rough.)* Whoa.

DEAN. Whoa.

ARISTIDE. Whoa.

RALPH. Now what's amazing here is that we think that it's the first play ever to portray two people

DAPHNE. falling in love onstage.

RALPH. Which means that it changed the entire course

DAPHNE & RALPH. of theater history.

DAPHNE. And you think the fragment is here in the library?

RALPH. No, I think it was *sent* from here –

DAPHNE. And the *records* of the shipment are here in Naxos.

RALPH. Right. Which is why I need some help, so what do you say?

DEAN. I say good luck to you. Live long and prosper. I have some very important *research* to do, so I'll see you later. *(Sotto voce, to DAPHNE.)* Wild goose chase. See you on the beach.

(The DEAN exits.)

RALPH. Do *you* have time?

DAPHNE. Me? No, I-I-I still have research to do. It's important.

RALPH. Right. Of course. Well thanks. It was nice meeting you.

END:

~~*(He exits. DAPHNE touches her precious books, feeling guilty, and ARISTIDE catches her eye.)*~~

~~**ARISTIDE.** Tsk tsk tsk.~~